

Claim listing pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.121:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A ~~protector for a post, the post having front and rear sides and a base portion secured to a support surface and a protector for said base portion comprising, in combination:~~ barrier ~~adapted to be~~ positioned horizontally around and spaced away from all sides of the post providing a space between said barrier and the post to protect the base portion of said post from being struck by a moving object adjacent the support surface; said barrier ~~having contiguous front and rear portions defining an a certain size interior enclosure enclosing adapted to enclose the post and providing~~ provide ~~said~~ complete spacing of said barrier away from the post; said barrier ~~also having front and rear portions, said rear portion containing a having an extended support portion extending horizontally rearwardly beyond the post and; said barrier also having a securing means member inside the barrier interior thereto and adjacent said barrier extended rear portion and the post for~~ securing said barrier to the support surface rearwardly of the post; ~~for retention reaction against horizontal deflection of said barrier;~~ and said barrier ~~also~~ having resistively flexible oblique vertical bends between said front panel portion and said rear support portion whereby when said barrier is deflected rearwardly said rear support portion will resiliently deflect outwardly away from the post against the retention reaction of said rearward securing ~~member~~ means.

Claims 2 – 7 (cancelled)

Claim 8 (currently amended) The combination A vertical barrier as defined in claim 1 having in which a central beam portion is positioned totally within said rearwardly extending barrier portion and adjacent the most rearward portions thereof and is secured thereto, said central beam portion also being adapted to be secured to the support surface by the securing means forwardly of said most rearward portions of said rearwardly extended barrier portion and providing to provide a resistive force around said securing means when said barrier front portion is deflected rearwardly, whereby when said barrier is deflected rearwardly said rear support portion will resiliently deflect outwardly away from the post against the retention reaction of said securing means.

Claim 9 (currently amended) The combination of a post, a support surface for the post, and a [[A]] post protector for protecting a base portion of [[a]] the post standing on [[a]] the support surface comprising:

a front member of the protector and a at least one rear member of the protector having vertically disposed segments integrally connected to each other defining an interior enclosure to extend extending upwardly from the support surface to enclose the base portion of the post and provide complete spacing of the protector away from around and spaced apart from all sides of the post,

the front member including  
at least one support surface engagement portion extending intermediate the front portion segments and the post [[and]] engaging the support surface between the front portion segments and the post, and

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flexible bending elements in the front portion segments moveable away from the post ~~along with vertically disposed segments of the front and rear members beside the post~~ when a portion of the front member is deflected toward the post, and the rear member having a support surface engagement portion engaging the support surface on the side of the post opposite from the support surface engagement portion of the front member.